



TURF TIMES

FIRST MONTHLY MEETING IN 1989 WILL BE MARCH 15 TH
WHERE? GARLAND GOLF CLUB, LEWISTON

Volume 18 No. 1

Our last years meeting with the Golf Association of Michigan brought such warm response that we are again repeating the same meeting with G.A.M. This is the type meeting that should encourage everyone from your club interested in golf to come with you. Please contact your club president, your green chairman or any other club official as it will be time well spent. Everyone will come away from this meeting with knowledge that they did not possess before.

REGISTRATION: Will start at 8:45 A. M.

MEETING: Will start at 9:30 A. M.

COST: Will be \$15.00 per person includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch.

SPEAKERS: Jeff Revard, Executive Director G.A.M.

Jim Lathum, Mid-West Director U.S.G.A. Green Section.

Dr. Jos. Vargus, Pathologist M.S.U.

Chris Fochtman CGCS, Superintendent Green Ridge Country Club
(Subject: Caddying at the U.S. Open)

Other speakers will be announced at the opening session.

AFTERNOON SESSION: This will feature the 1988 U.S. Open film. This will be the Open played at "THE COUNTRY CLUB", Brookline, Ma.

OTHER MEETING DATES FOR 1989

April 10th: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MINI CONFERENCE at Sylvan Resort.
(Further details will be forthcoming in another letter)

May, date to be announced: Crystal Downs Country Club.

June 12th: Michigan Turfgras Foundation Fund Raiser, Michaywe Hills Lakes Course.

July: Date still open.

August 22nd: Alpena Golf Club.

September 11th: N.M.T.M.A. Fund Raiser, Grand Traverse Resort, Bear Course.

October, Date to be announced, Tuck Tate Chapter Championship, Hidden Valley Resort.

Please mark these dates on your calendar.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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July

August

September

October

December

BEHIND THE GREENS

A Monthly Message From The Board
by Tom Reed, Executive Secretary

Welcome to this edition of Behind The Greens. This year your Board of Directors elected to have each Board member take his turn reporting to you through this media, news from his position on the Board. The draw of the short straw designated me as your first reporter. It will be a tough chore to fill the shoes of our past writer President, Tom Brogger but here goes.

On my way to the Michigan Turfgrass Conference I met with Jim Bogart, Tom Brogger and Kim Olson at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center to interview five M.S.U. turfgrass students for the purpose of picking this years N.M.T.M.A. Scholarship winner.

What an experience! After hearing from students James Balamucki GPA 3.6, Daniel Bissonette GPA 3.6, Michelle Holcomb GPA 3.3, John Gray GPA 3.6 and Robert Warner GPA 3.9 we began the process of picking a winner. Everyone of these students were bright, well mannered, very learned and presented themselves as professionals before the panel. It is a compliment to M.S.U. and its professors for doing such a great job of educating these people for our industry.

Michelle Holcomb was voted this years winner. Michelle worked for our Treasurer, Damian Kurkowski at Treetops golf course during the 1986 & 1987 golf seasons and was encouraged by Damian to enter the turfgrass school at M.S.U.. Michelle will graduate this March and is looking forward to returning to the north country for employment. All of us in the N.M.T.M.A. congratulate you Michelle. Keep up the good work.

This years Conference had a new format and it worked very well. The morning sessions, Weed Control, Turfgrass Soils, Insect Management and Disease Management were well attended and very informative. The noon luncheon was sold out and as always speaker Grady Jim Robinson was terrific. The afternoon sessions brought new information and methods to our attention. The Vendor's appreciation hour was over flowing as Vendors and Customers enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and refreshments and exchanged ideas and information for the coming season. Wednesday morning sessions presented more new information from some of the leading turfgrass professors in our industry. A check of the basic schools both Monday and Wednesday afternoon produced full classrooms and many compliments on the subjects taught.

What a great chance to keep up with our fast moving industry. Rumors are that next years Conference may be expanded to add an additional half day of topics.

For those of you who missed this years Conference, mark your next years calanders for the third week of January right now . You will no be disapointed, it is time well spent.

The award of the Scholarship by the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association to Michelle Holcomb, was made at the Michigan Turfgrass Conference at Lansing, on January 17th, and presented by our President Tom Brogger. Since, a letter has been received by the recipient and her thanks are acknowledged herewith:

January 27, 1989

Northern Michigan Turf Managers Assoc.
3733 Apollo Drive
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Dear Scholarship Board:

On January 17, you made the decision to choose me as the Northern Michigan Scholarship winner. I would like to thank you for choosing me.

It was a good experience for me to go through the interview. I found it to be a great pleasure to meet and talk to each of you.

Again, Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,



Michelle Holcomb

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of the Mother of Robert McElheny, Superintendent at Mitchell Creek. Bob has been very unfortunate in loosing both his parents within a short span. His father was almost one of the first golf course superintendents in the Detroit area and did much for golf in Michigan. We are very sorry to report this.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 1989

The following Committee assignments were announced by President Tom Brogger for 1989. Much help is needed on many of these committees therefore if you would like to participate and give of your time, would you please drop a note to Tom. Your help would be appreciated and we would like more in the association to participate in our affairs.

PROGRAM & GOLF

Paul Holmes - Chairman
Kim Olson
Charlie Menefee
All summer meeting supt.

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP

Jim Bogart - Chairman
Tom Reed
Kim Olson
Andy Norman

BY-LAWS and CODE of ETHICS

Bob Steinhurst - Chairman
Charlie Menefee

MEMBERSHIP

Kim Olson - Chairman
Brent Nelson
Brian Holmes
Jim Bogart

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jeff Holmes - Chairman
Brent Nelson
Damian Kurkowski

MTF BENEFIT DAY

Charlie Menefee - Chairman
Tom Brogger
Paul Holmes
Brian Holmes
Host Supt.

FUND RAISING

Jim Olli - Chairman
Kim Olson
Brent Nelson

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Damian Kurkowski - Chairman
Tom Reed
Paul Holmes

GCSAA LIAISON

Charlie Menefee

NMIMA FUND RAISER

Jeff Holmes - Chairman
Damian Kurkowski
Brent Nelson

Participation, as a participating member, your voice will be heard on issues of your particular concern and interest guaranteeing the development of each aspect of our Association.

The United States Golf ASSOCIATION has accepted and invitation from Crystal Downs Country Club in Frankfort, Michigan, to be the host for the 1991 U.S. Seniors Amateur Championship. The dates of the 37th Championship are September 16 - 21.

The 1991 Senior Amateur at Crystal Downs represents the third USGA championship currently scheduled to be played in Michigan, following the 1989 U.S. Women's Open at Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Birmingham. It will be the 22nd USGA competition, but only the second Senior Amateur, in Michigan. The 1984 Senior Amateur was held at Birmingham Country Club. Crystal Downs C. C. was designed by Dr. Alister MacKenzie, with assistance from Perry Maxwell and opened in 1927.

At a recent Board Meeting, Jeff Holmes reported on PESTICIDE DISPOSAL DAY. Egglers Industrial Waste was contacted and they suggested we establish several pick up sites around the northern Mich. area. It is necessary to establish how much is being discarded before sites can be established.

CHEMICAL PICKUP AND DISPOSAL

The following information will be pertinent to those of you who have OLD CHEMICALS. What is meant by old chemicals is that pile sitting in the corner that has red flags around it and no one is to go near. If this has lured you into reading more, then you probably have old chemicals you'd like to get rid of.

In this preliminary survey, we need to know what kind of chemicals you have and how much of each. The reason we have to know the type of chemicals and the quantity is for information to obtain the permit for chemical pickup and disposal. If enough interest is generated, we will hire a truck to go from club to club around Northern Michigan and pickup the chemicals and dispose of properly.

A price figure will be available after we get an idea of some quantities. You will not be held accountable to participate if you fill out this survey. We realize some clubs may select to drop out when pricing is finalized. PLEASE LET ME REMIND YOU, THAT IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM WHO WILL?

CHEMICAL

QUANTITY (lbs./gals.)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

For further information please contact Jeff Holmes
(616) 938-9083

Your name _____ Phone _____

With the present restrictions and those federal laws coming into effect April 1, 1989, please list your chemicals, fold and mail to Jeff Holmes.

Jeff Holmes
4355 Westridge Dr.
Williamsburg, MI. 49690

60TH ANNUAL G. C. S. A. A. CONFERENCE AND SHOW

February 6 - 13th, 1989, was the big event in turfgrass of the year, at Anaheim, California. This was without a doubt, the largest attended conference in the history of GCSAA. 15054 persons registered at this conference from all over the world. This exceeded the conference at Houston by 2014 persons and in 1990 at Orlando, it is felt that more will be attending. Now is the time to think about your coming too, to see the greatest show in turf plus probably attend some good educational seminars. At this Anaheim Conference, Dennis D. Lyons was elected President of GCSAA, our own Jerry Faubel CGCS was elected Vice-President and Steve G. Cadenelli CGCS, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Prior to the Conference, the GCSAA golf tournament was held at Palm Springs, California. The overall winner was again Dave Powell, Myers Golf Club, Charlotte, North Carolina. This year, N.M.T.M.A. also had a winner in Tuck Tate who won, "Low Gross" in the Super Senior Tournament. Super Senior class are members who have achieved the 65 years age group. There was over 488 persons participating in this tournament and this year Mother Nature did not smile on this event. There were days that play was in a sand storm with many not starting and others failing to finish, the other two days were played in freezing temperatures. All this in sunny California.

NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION MOURNS PASSING OF CO-FOUNDER

Jupiter, Fla.-The National Golf Foundation joined with the golf industry this week in the mourning of Herbert B. Graffis, 95, who with his late brother Joe, founded the NGF in 1936. Graffis died of pneumonia Feb. 12 at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Fla. "Herb Graffis, contributions to golf cannot be measured", said Dr. Jos. F. Beditz, Ex. Vice President and CEO of the NGF.

"No one who has ever met Herb--and he knew everyone in golf-- will ever forget him. His writing on golf is legendary; his efforts to promote the game and his love for golf will stand as a testimonial for generations to come.

"Even in his advancing years, with his eyesight failing, he kept in constant touch with those in golf. His wit and his keen mind were as sharp as ever. Only death has silenced one of the great observers and voices of our game."

Graffis' career as a golf writer spanned most of this century, as a war correspondent, a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, a television personality and as an author of numerous articles on golf. These efforts led to his induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame in North Carolina in 1977, the first sportswriter to be so honored. In 1988, He was also honored by the PGA of America with its first-ever Distinguished Service Award. Graffis also authored The PGA, a history of the organization first published in 1975.

In addition, he was the ghost writer for Tommy Armour's book, How to Play Your Best Golf All The Time, a publication which is still in print. He was the founder of the Golf Writers Association of America and served that organization as president. He and his brother Joe also published two national magazines: Golfdom and Golfing. The latter publication was ultimately merged with GOLF magazine.

The NGF honored Graffis in 1977, with the creation of the Herb Graffis Award, presented annually to recognize "longtime and outstanding contributions in preserving the true spirit of the game; for recreation, good fellowship and health." Graffis himself received the award in 1983.

We will all miss him.

Your Office... A Reflection of Your Abilities

When your green chairman drops by your office for an unexpected chat, what does he see? Is your desk piled to eyebrow level with papers, broken parts and unsorted clutter? Do you have to search for 15 minutes to find the magazine article you need to show him? Does the dust on our filing cabinet excite his allergies?

Like it or not, the condition and appearance of your office reflect on your abilities as a manager. Granted, no one ever claimed that a golf course could be completely managed from behind a desk, and most superintendents' offices are not exactly accessible to the general public.

It's also true that many superintendents' offices, particularly at older clubs, are carved from buildings that originally housed everything from polo ponies to plows, and almost all are in the maintenance facility, which has a near-magical attraction for dust, dirt and grease.

However, the degree of order in your office and, by extension, your entire facility, reflects the degree of organization you bring to your work. You can say it's all right because you know where everything is, but what if you're not there? Does everything stop while someone tracks you down?

Even if you're limited on space and your office is at the bottom of the budgetary priorities list, there are some things you can do to bring order from chaos. Here are some suggestions.

Things We Didn't Know Before

Here are some things we learned from the packets of visitors' information we requested from the 50 states, plus American Samoa, the Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands:

You're never more than 6 miles from water in Michigan. Rugby ND is the geographic center of North America. Wisconsin has 14,900 named lakes. The only US commercially grown coffee is Hawaii's kona. Dodge City KS is the windiest city in the US. Maine has 60 lighthouses. Nebraska's state grass is bluestem. Idaho's state horse is the appaloosa. Oregon's state rock is the thunderegg. South Carolina's state dance is the shag. A festival in Berwyn IL celebrates the houby, a mushroom used in Bohemian cooking. The Kentuckian Society of New York, which meets twice a year in Manhattan, is the oldest and largest society of state's natives in the country. Since 1910 the *St Petersburg Evening Independent* has given its daily edition away free the day after a sunless day in the west coast Florida city. If you want to stay in a Bed & Breakfast in American Samoa, ask for a *Fale, Fala, ma Ti* (house, mat, and tea).

[Adapted from *Consumer Reports Travel Letter*, 11/88, p. 90.]

RETURN POSTCARD

Mar. 15, 1989, G.A.M. Meeting at Garland Golf Club, Lewiston. Please contact whoever you will bring to this important meeting and immediately fill out your postcard so we can tell Garland the number for lunch. THANKS!

A place for everything and everything in its place. This time-worn adage still has merit. Filing cabinets, baskets and blue print organizers are excellent investments.

Developing a system. There is no best way to develop a filing system. The only important criterion is whether it works in your operation. It does however, have to be based on some sort of logic.

Develop good organizational habits. Work at putting things away when you have finished with them. Develop a system for moving things from the top of your desk into some sort of permanent home and stick to it.

Try to work out some sort of schedule. It's right and proper that cleaning up your office should take a back seat to dealing with on-course emergencies and important maintenance procedures. That's your job. But take a moment at the end of the day or even at the end of the week to police your office area.

It's not only the impression your office leaves on others, it also matters how it makes you feel. Besides setting a good example for your employees, a clean, well-organized office can make you feel that you're in control and on top of things. And that's where you're supposed to be. □

Credit: Three Rivers Green - Feb. 1988

You might be interested . . .

- An average 18-hole golf course can produce enough pure oxygen for at least 100,000 people for an entire year.
- Grass has a cooling effect. An area equivalent to a football field has a cooling effect of about 70 tons of air conditioning. On a hot summer day, grass can be 10-14 degrees cooler than exposed soil and as much as 30 degrees cooler than concrete or asphalt.
- One acre of trees found on a golf course will clean the air polluted by eight autos operated for 12 hours. That same acre will absorb the carbon dioxide produced by 50 autos during 12 hours.

With every rising of the sun
Think of your life as just begun.
The past has canceled and buried deep
All Yesterday. There let them sleep.

Concern yourself with but Today.
Grasp it, and teach it to obey
Your will and plan. Since time began
Today has been the friend of man.
—Author Unknown